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THE

18

THIRD CHAPTER

OF

PATRICK'S

PURGATORY, &c.



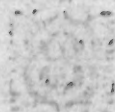
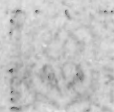
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THE
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P. N. C. K's
PURGATORY, &c.



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OF
PATRICK'S
PURGATORY, &c.

THE Overseer, being obliged to keep well with George, the elder brother, whatever became of Patrick's affairs, must, to secure his favour, pay great court to his Coachman, who had the same ascendant over George, that Harry, his name-fake, had over Patrick. He was far from being alert in the box, and, if he came to no mischance, it was not from any great skill in driving, but because he held in his horses, and, by good will, would never suffer them to go out of a foot-pace. In this consisted his whole art; and though he seldom broke an axle-tree, or endangered overturning, yet every now and then he was set fast in a slough, which a brisker Coachman would have whipped through; but for fear of overturning, which he dreaded above all things, or his horses running a-head, which made him tremble with apprehension, he would keep them *stock still* in a bottom. Then he would call to all the neighbours to help him out. "For the love of God, Nic, ease off that wheel, back the pole-horse

“ there, he has no more mouth than the gavel end of a barn ;
 “ d—n it, we shall be fast here ; call *Peter Bear* in all haste,
 “ here’s a crown-piece to buy him brandy and pepper.” — When
 all the while, if he had been used to *put mettle* in his horses,
 instead of curbing them, he might have flogged on, saved his
 money, and the neighbours laughing at him ; but, indeed,
 neither *he*, or the *master* he was ’prentice to, ever had the least
 notion of the thing, principally to be known by every one, who
 takes a whip, or a *helm*, in his hand, that a *coach*, as well as a
ship, steer best when they are *under way* ; and to *creep* along,
 is the readiest thing in the world, to leave *one* in the *mire*, and
 the *other* on a *lee-boat*.

But though *Harry* was deadly timorous about his master
George, (who, by the by, wished him at the D—l) he didn’t
 care if *Patrick* got every bone in his body broke, and would
 have the *Overseer* do this and t’other thing, no matter how *pre-*
posterous. He had a *spot of work* on his hands at home, that,
 he knew, would set the whole family in an *uproar*, and was
 willing (how wisely you may guess) to have *Patrick’s* family in
 an uproar at the same time. *Dolly Major*, his old friend, was
 now *superannuated*, and he must look out for another *House-*
maid. If his master took *one* recommended by the tenants, he
 knew his business was done. He tried twenty projects to hin-
 der it. One time he would *steal a march* on them, and bring
one into the house of his own chusing ; another time, he would
 way-lay the *House-maid* they recommended, give her money,
 and cast cloaths, with a *bot-pot* made of strong *beer* and *gin*,
 and make her so out of her senses, that she did not know
 what she was doing or saying ; then he would *explain her*
meaning : *mrs. Dolly* means so and so, to which she always an-
 swer’d *aye*, and, for a good while past, hadn’t another word to
 throw

throw at a dog. But, on this new choice of one to come in her place, he was at his *wit's end*: all his old tricks were *stale*, and at last he bethought himself of a stratagem, that never entered into any man's head, but his own. He knew both his master's *House-maids* had always been a little *gamesome*, as well as fickle, and would quit an old paramour for a new one at any time: he had seen *six* or *seven* of them, and found it was plaguy hard to keep them true to their *keepers*; and *one*, in particular, had play'd them a slippery trick. Now, says he to his brother, the *book-keeper*, "if we can get the next *House-maid* to fall in love with our friend *Aminadab*, the *Jew*, all will be well, and he and she will keep our master on our side; by the L—d he's a likely fellow, and rich, and as generous as a prince." Then he went to work among all *Dolly's* acquaintance, with his praises of *Aminadab*. "By G—d," says he, "that's a tall fellow of his inches, and fit to lie by a *Queen*. Observe what a port he has, what a limb! for my part, if I were a woman, I should fall in love with his *whiskers*. Beside, says he, for a *woman's man*, he's out of all compare, beyond one of us. He was clipped, or, what d'ye call it, *circumcised*. There's nothing like your *circumcision* for that business, by the L—d it makes us quite another thing; I am too old now, but if I had fifty sons they should all be *circumcised*. It's a burning shame he has had so little notice taken of him by the *ladies*."

By this sort of talk, and a little *bullying* into the bargain, he brought *Aminadab* into high-favour with old *Dorothy Major*, and she was ready to do *any thing* he pleased, and let him have his *will* of her; but *Harry* would not let it go too far thereabouts; he wanted *Aminadab* should keep his strength for the next *House-keeper*, and had only a mind he should shew what an incontinent *strong dog* he was, by attempting an *old woman*.

But

But we must leave *Harry*, and his *friend*, for a while, to attend on the affairs of his master's brother, whose *Overseer*, notwithstanding any instructions given him before he undertook the business a-new, or any flourishes he had *made at a distance*, took wit in his anger, and sent for t'other *Harry*, *Patrick's* Coachman, to see how the land lay in earnest, for those he had employed formerly to take observations, made *wrong charts*, and puzzled the *navigation*. When *Harry* and he came to compare notes, he found that things were not over exactly described to him in his absence: *Jenny Minor*, it's true, had come on a little, and the *meagre, scared* look he left with her at last parting, was something changed for the better: but it was all forced, like made ground, and her flesh hung strangely about her; she was both *fat* and *lean*, which gives a disagreeable air to the face, and it must be owned, after all the *Overseer* had done to *plump her*, *Jenny* was no beauty. The toys, and trinkets, and lace, he had bestowed on her, only served to give her a few frippery airs, as always happens to people, who are not used to fine cloaths, or know not how to put them on. He knew the world too well, not to see the extent of miss *Jenny's* merit; and however, he might talk of her, or *toast* her, knew well enough she could not vie with *Dolly*, the *Coachman's* *mistress*; so, instead of *challenging* about the beauty of their respective *dames*, he thought it best to let them both keep their distance, or *appear* at different times, while he and *Harry* should order affairs, and keep the ladies from *debating* the point (a fashionable phrase for scolding) till such time as their jealousy should cool a little.

Patrick, for his part, knew little of what was doing; for it was his fate, as well as his *brother's*, to be always under hatches, and managed by his servants, as, indeed, all people are, who
have

have large concerns. However, he should have been glad of a little sport between the two *gentlewomen*, and made no doubt but *Dolly*, his favourite, would play her part well. He was in great expectation, when he heard they were to meet in the *great hall* with all the world at their *heels*, as they did; but only made an awkward curtesy to one another, and retired. *Patrick's* best friends thought this better than a battle; for family quarrels are like *civil wars*, where the credit of the nation can gain nothing by the compleatest *victory*; if you do triumph, it is over yourself, and you lose out of one hand, what you get in the other. *Harry* knew this, and was always for peace on reasonable terms; but resolved as death, not to let *Jenny* govern the family at discretion, for reasons you may see in the next chapter.

END OF THE THIRD CHAPTER.



Advertisement.

Speedily will be publish'd,

A Collection of STATE-LETTERS, written in the Year 1753, and address'd to several knights, citizens, and burgeses in P——t. To give the reader a *taste* of what he may expect, we beg leave to present him with the following *short, but genuine*, Epistle.

Dear —, 23 JY 63 Saturday, Nov. the 3d, 1753.

“ THE troops are assembling from all quarters, and as
“ you desired me to write to you in case of need, I take
“ the liberty to acquaint you, that your Friends are now
“ apprehensive of something extraordinary to be undertaken.
“ Therefore, in order to call our forces together, and that we
“ might not be surpriz'd or weaken'd by the absence of any of
“ our friends, I have thus written to all that are out of town,
“ that we may be also assembled and ready to oppose any
“ attempt that may be made, which design does confessedly
“ appear in the fighting faces which some gentlemen have put
“ on, though nothing is publickly avow'd but the expelling of
“ ***** and the A——b election, on which
“ they mean to try their strength: and as I am perswaded that
“ this hint will be sufficient to hasten you to town, where your
“ presence is absolutely necessary, and where it will be most
“ agreeable to your friends, I shall only request you will pre-
“ sent my compliments to Mrs. —, and believe me to be,

“ Dear —,

“ Your faithful friend,

“ And humble servant, &c.